

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 229339 TOSEC 270214

43

ORIGIN PA-02

INFO OCT-01 PRS-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 CCO-00 /019 R

DRAFTED BY PA/M:JCHAMBERLAIN:JC

APPROVED BY PA/M:WDYESS

S/S - MR. BRIDGES

DESIRED DISTRIBUTION

PA, S/S, S/PRS

----- 016626

O 161643Z SEP 76 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 229339 TOSEC 270214

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (KISSINGER)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT WALL STREET JOURNAL EDITORIAL, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 HEADED "PUTTING VIETNAM ON HOLD."
2. A PROMISED VETO BY THE U.S. PROMPTED THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL TO POSTPONE CONSIDERATION OF VIETNAM'S UN MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION UNTIL NOVEMBER.
3. NO DOUBT THOSE WHO GUIDE SUCH MATTERS FEEL THAT THE U.S. POSITION WILL SOFTEN AFTER THE ELECTION IS DECIDED. BUT WE WOULD CAUTION THAT WHETHER THE U.S. SOFTENS IS LARGELY UP TO VIETNAM ITSELF AND ITS WILLINGNESS TO REVEAL ALL IT KNOWS ABOUT AMERICAN SERVICEMEN LISTED AS MISSING IN ACTION.
4. VIETNAM MADE A TOKEN GESTURE RECENTLY WHEN IT TURNED OVER THE NAMES OF 12 AMERICAN FLIERS IT SAYS WERE KILLED DURING THE WAR. BUT U.S. OFFICIALS ARE CONVINCED THAT, SINCE HANOI HAD THE IDENTITY CARDS OF THE FLIERS, IT HAS BEEN WITHHOLDING THE INFORMATION FOR UP TO 10 YEARS.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 229339 TOSEC 270214

5. MOREOVER, THE DOZEN NAMES REPRESENT ONLY THE BAREST FRACTION OF THE APPROXIMATELY 2,500 AMERICANS LISTED AS

MISSING OR PRESUMABLY DEAD BUT UNACCOUNTED FOR IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. IT'S UNLIKELY THAT HANOI HAS INFORMATION ON ALL OF THEM, BUT THE STATE DEPARTMENT IS CERTAIN THAT VIETNAM HAS VARYING AMOUNTS OF INFORMATION ON PERHAPS ONE-QUARTER OF THEM. IN TESTIMONY GIVEN TO A HOUSE COMMITTEE, RETURNED U.S. POWS HAVE MENTIONED OTHER U.S. SERVICEMEN HELD IN CAPTIVITY IN NORTH VIETNAM WHO ARE STILL UNACCOUNTED FOR.

6. BUT HANOI'S LONG RANGE PURPOSES ARE NOT SO MUCH CYNICAL AS MATERIALISTIC. SPECIFICALLY, HANOI CONTINUES TO HOPE THE U.S. WILL FAVOR IT WITH AID IN ORDER TO HELP REBUILD ITS WAR-DAMAGED ECONOMY. GOVERNMENT SPOKESMEN HAVE REPEATEDLY SAID THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION PROMISED SUCH AID IN TALKS LEADING UP TO THE PARIS PEACE ACCORD OF 1973.

7. WHAT THEY DON'T SAY, OF COURSE, IS THAT ANY MENTION OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE WAS CONTINGENT ON A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THE WAR BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH VIETNAM. INSTEAD, HANOI EFFECTIVELY ABSOLVED THE U.S. OF ANY SUCH COMMITMENT WHEN IT OVERRAN AND MILITARILY CONQUERED SOUTH VIETNAM. FOR THE MOMENT HANOI IS PLAYING DOWN ITS CONTENTION THAT THE U.S. "OWES" IT ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, SINCE UN MEMBERSHIP SEEMS TO BE AT THE TOP OF ITS PRIORITY LIST, BUT IT HAS REPEATEDLY PRESSED THAT POINT IN THE PAST.

8. WE HAVE SERIOUS DOUBTS THAT MANY AMERICANS WILL BE PERSUADED BY THE ARGUMENT THAT AMERICAN TAXPAYERS SOMEHOW OWE VIETNAM REPARATIONS FOR WAR DAMAGE THAT RESULTED FROM HANOI'S AGGRESSION--AGGRESSION, INCIDENTALLY, THAT WAS RECENTLY ADMITTED BY NO LESS THAN GENERAL VAN TIEN DUNG, NORTH VIETNAM'S CHIEF OF STAFF.

9. AS FOR UN MEMBERSHIP, THERE IS PROBABLY NO GOOD REASON ANY LONGER TO PROSCRIBE ANY NATION, NOW THAT EVERYONE RECOGNIZES AS A JOKE THE QUALIFICATION IN THE UN CHARTER LIMITING MEMBERSHIP ONLY TO PEACE LOVING NATIONS. BUT WASHINGTON SHOULD CONTINUE TO INSIST ON A GENUINE QUID PRO QUO, UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 229339 TOSEC 270214

BEGINNING WITH THE DEMAND THAT HANOK STOP USING MIAS AS PAWNS. (END TEXT.) HABIB

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, PRESS COMMENTS, MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS, MEETING VOTING RECORDS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE229339
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JCHAMBERLAIN:JC
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760349-0968
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760952/aaaabsml.tel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN PA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: vandyklc
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 FEB 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 FEB 2004 by MaustMC>; APPROVED <30 AUG 2004 by vandyklc>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS MATERIAL
TAGS: SOPN, OVIP, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006